

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS, POST-PLENARY CONVERSATION, AUGUST 19, 1977
(SALT TWO -

1. (CRANSTON - JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN, A-1748)
SS-19 ANTENNAS, REDUCTIONS

SHCHUKIN RETURNED TO SUBJECT OF ANTENNAS ASSOCIATED WITH SS-19 LAUNCHERS AT D&P. RECALLING HE HAD MENTIONED ANTENNAS WERE NOT INTEGRAL TO SS-19 SYSTEM, BUT COULD SERVE AS INDICATORS FOR US, HE ADDED THAT DURING TESTING PROCESS, EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN THESE ANTENNAS HAD BEEN TRIED AND LATER IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT ANTENNAS DID BETTER JOB. HE EMPHASIZED ANTENNAS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OPERATION OF MISSILE, BUT INDICATED THAT ANTENNAS WERE PART OF COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY. SEN. CRANSTON QUESTIONED SIZE OF SOVIET PROPOSED REDUCTIONS, ASKING SHCHUKIN WHY SOVIET SIDE FAVORED SUCH SMALL REDUCTIONS. SHCHUKIN STATED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTIONS WERE CHOSEN AS NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO ENDANGER STRATEGIC BALANCE, KEEPING IN MIND THE TWO COUNTRIES NEIGHBORS, BUT WERE MORE THAN TOKEN AND INDICATED THE GOOD INTENTIONS ON THEIR PART TO MOVE IN DIRECTION BOTH SIDES WERE INTER-
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ESTED IN. CRANSTON VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS FELT VLADIVOSTOK LEVELS TOO HIGH SINCE BOTH SIDES WOULD NEED TO ADD TO INVENTORIES TO REACH THOSE LEVELS. IN RESPONSE, SHCHUKIN SAID HE SHARED THAT OPINION BUT BECAUSE OF EXPERIENCE HE KNEW PSYCHOLOGY OF MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN THAT THEY WERE ALWAYS RELUCTANT IN GIVING UP ANY OF THEIR MEANS FOR WAGING WAR.

2. (SCHULZE - BUTTS/BELETSKY, A-1746)
VERIFICATION/BACKFIRE

REP. SCHULZE IMPRESSED UPON BELETSKY THE FACT THAT AGREEMENT MUST BE DETAILED, SPECIFIC, ONE IN WHICH VERIFICATION PROVISIONS LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT AND ONE WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE DATA BASE AS AN INTEGRAL PART. BELETSKY STATED THAT MTNS WERE ADEQUATE FOR VERIFICATION AND THAT CURRENT JDT WAS DEVOID OF ANY DOUBLE MEANING. CITING THE OKEAN II EXERCISE WHERE THE USE OF BACKFIRE ON LONG RANGE MISSIONS WAS EXTENSIVE, SCHULZE SAID IN FACE OF SUCH EMPLOYMENT IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO CALL BACKFIRE ANYTHING BUT HEAVY BOMBER, AS IT POSES REAL THREAT TO US. BELETSKY REASSERTED THAT BACKFIRE IS MEDIUM BOMBER DESIGNED FOR REGIONAL ROLES AND AS SUCH ITS TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS WOULD NOT PERMIT EMPLOYMENT OF INTERCONTINENTAL BOMBER. SCHULZE REPLIED THAT HE FOUND BELETSKY'S ARGUMENT INCONSISTANT WITH FACTS AND STATED SIDES MUST CONSIDER IN TREATY LIMITING STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES, NOT INTENTION FOR THEIR USE.

3. (CARR - KLOSSON - MCNEILL/KARPOV - SMOLIN, A-1750)
ARTICLE III

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KARPOV HANDED OVER NON-PAPER FOR ARTICLE III PARA 1 WHICH HAD OPENING PHRASE "UPON ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS AGREEMENT" KLOSSON NOTED THAT THERE WERE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOVIET PROPOSED PHRASE AND CURRENT US PHRASE "FROM DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS AGREEMENT." KLOSSON

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